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NATION/7A



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EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

141st Year, No. 197

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Steelhead numbers hit lowest in decades

Summer fish returns drastically low across Bonneville Dam

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Summer steelhead returns are off to a dismal start in 2017, with 75 perfect fewer fish than usual crossing Bonneville Dam so far this season.

The latest research suggests a big part of the recent population decline may be tied to factors soon after juvenile steelhead enter the ocean, such as predation, parasites and industrial contamination.

A study published June 26 in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries

and Aquatic Sciences takes a closer look at Pacific Northwest steelhead runs from the lower Columbia River and Puget Sound, tracking the survival of smolts early in their ocean life.

Neala Kendall, research scientist and project leader with the

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Olympia, said the study did not specifically examine upper Columbia steelhead, though ocean conditions apply to all fish runs.

"This is important for interior Columbia River steelhead," Kendall said. "They are experiencing the same ocean as lower Columbia River steelhead,

certainly."

The publication comes at a time when fisheries managers across the Columbia Basin are projecting the lowest steelhead returns in 37 years. According to data, just 4,075 steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam since July 1, compared to 16,996 at the same time last year.

See **STEELHEAD/8A**

New wheelchair provides opportunities for quadriplegic hunter



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Nels Hadden gets help sitting up in his new wheelchair from his nurse Miranda Amwoka, left, and his care provider Martin Fuentes, right, as Pete Hedbert, with Pacific Healthcare Associates, makes adjustments to the chair on Tuesday at his home in Walla Walla. Hadden was paralyzed nearly nine years ago while helping a motorist on Interstate 84 west of Arlington.

BREATH OF THE WILD

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Nels Hadden may not be able to move his arms or legs, but he can still take down a deer with a crossbow.

There's no magic spell or use of the Force, just the power of technology that lets quadriplegic men and women do things that would have been impossible years ago.

Hadden was paralyzed from the neck down in 2009, when he stopped to help at the scene of a crash on Interstate 84 and was struck by another car that slid out of control on the ice. He lived in Milton-Freewater at the time and has since moved to Walla Walla.

On Tuesday the nonprofit Independence Fund gifted Hadden an upgraded wheelchair with 16-inch

pneumatic wheels and four wheel drive that will allow him to roll across uneven terrain. He can't wait to use it to hit the beach for the first time in more than eight years.

"This is going to give some of those things back that were taken away from me," he said.

Hadden has always been able to move about and control a cell phone using puffs and sips of air into a straw near his mouth, but his other chairs have always been designed for flat, even surfaces.

One of the biggest things the all-terrain chair will help with is hunting. Hadden was an avid hunter before the accident, and still is today. He may not be able to hug his children

See **HADDEN/8A**



Photo contributed by Nels Hadden

Nels Hadden poses with the hunting guide Gary Parson with the buck he shot with a crossbow last September outside of Dayton, Wash.

PENDLETON

Fireworks fundraising explodes out the gate

Already halfway to goal

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

About a week into an effort to restart the Pendleton Fourth of July fireworks show, fundraisers are already halfway to their goal.

The cancellation of the 2017 show spurred Jerry Imsland of the Pendleton Rotary Club to begin organizing a fundraising drive to bring back the Independence Day fireworks display.

With an expanding base of support, the Rotary Club has been able to raise more than \$5,000, or more than halfway toward the organization's \$10,000 goal.

While the fundraising effort seems to be coalescing around the Rotary Club, Imsland wasn't the only person interested in reviving the fireworks show.

Thirteen-year-old Sunridge Middle School student Devan Driskell intended to lead an effort of his own with the \$1,000 he earned delivering newspapers, until he joined forces with Imsland after Driskell and his father learned more about Imsland's campaign.

According to George Murdock, Umatilla County commissioner and the president-elect of the Rotary Club, the organization officially created a fireworks committee Monday and named Imsland and Driskell the committee co-chairs.

"I like the idea of kids getting involved," Imsland said.

Donations will be processed through the Pendleton Rotary Foundation, making them tax deductible. The Rotary board also threw in \$3,000 of its own to bolster the cause.

See **FIREWORKS/8A**

HERMISTON

Desert Rose Ministries to open restaurant

Aiming to create jobs for those that need work

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Desert Rose Ministries has made a name for themselves as a place to help people get back on their feet. They hope to live up to that reputation with their newest project: Last Supper Dining, a restaurant located next to the church that will create jobs for people who may have trouble getting them elsewhere.

Desert Rose took over the vacant restaurant at the corner of East Fifth

and Main streets earlier this year, and its members have been hard at work turning it into a place for the public.

The restaurant, which had its soft opening this weekend during the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, will have a biblical theme, according to pastor Jason Estle, serving things like "Samson sirloins" and "Rabboni ribeyes," as well as scriptures on the menus and cards for prayer requests on the tables.

"We're going to have fun with the names," Estle said. "And if someone wants to have their meal blessed, we can do that."

See **RESTAURANT/8A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Andrew Eickstaedt flips a burger Saturday shortly after the opening of The Last Supper, a restaurant associated with Desert Rose Ministries.



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